

Fife and Kinross Group



Fife Area Wildlife News

No 102 Spring 2018



Message from Alison Irvine, Chair



As the days lengthen my thoughts turn to spring – what will I grow in the garden, what seeds will I plant, and what sort of a year will it be for our wildlife? My nest boxes

are all cleaned out and a few new ones erected for the resident tits, sparrows (both house and tree) and starlings.

At our AGM last November I was very keen to make the links between what we do locally, both as a members group and as individuals, and the SWT national vision. We were lucky to have Jo Pike, Director of Public Affairs in attendance. She talked us through the new 5 year plan for SWT. The vision is for a connected network of healthy, resilient ecosystems supporting Scotland's wildlife and people. This will be achieved through **Championing** the

ecological, social, moral and economic reasons to protect and restore nature; **Demonstrating** best practice in practical conservation and the creation of Living Landscapes and Living Seas; **Inspiring** people to experience and learn about and care for wildlife and wild places.

Sometimes it may feel as if the lofty ambitions of the Trust are disconnected from our day to day experiences of wildlife conservation. However, it is very important to appreciate that everything we do locally adds up to achieving lots across Scotland as a whole. So whether you feed the birds, decide to develop a wildlife friendly area of garden or an insect friendly planter of flowers; or whether you decide to learn more about Fife and Kinross wildlife by coming on a walk or attending a talk, I hope you appreciate that all you do to support SWT is important both locally and nationally.

As usual we have a good programme of walks throughout the year and I hope to meet many of you at these.

Would You Like to be a Reserves Convenor ?

Amongst the many valued groups of volunteers within the group are the reserves convenors. These are the people who keep an eye on our reserves and report any issues back to the East Central Scotland Reserves Manager at SWT HQ.

Ideally a convenor needs to live locally and to be able visit the reserve several times a year. Some convenors concentrate on recording different groups of wildlife, some on undertaking active management within the reserve plan and others on involving local communities with the reserve plan.

At present we have a vacancy for a reserves convenor at Cullaloe, our reserve near Aberdour. This has a good mix of habitats from open water through dense willow scrub to mature trees with lots of scope for recording and for

providing a focal point for our membership in SW Fife. There is an active support group for convenors in the form of annual indoor and outdoor meetings where convenors share their experiences and any issues. If you are interested in volunteering for this role and/ or would like more information we would love to hear from you (Please contact the Secretary : details below).



The loch at Cullaloe



Robertson is delighted to sponsor the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

As an infrastructure, support services and construction company we realise how important the protection of biodiversity sites is and continually monitor and update our Environmental Policy to reflect this. Our on-site monitoring ensures that we will never knowingly damage or disrupt areas of natural interest.

Corn Bunting 2018 Appeal

Thanks to the cooperation of farmers in Fife, Corn Bunting territories in Fife increased by 26% in 2017, which followed an 18% increase in 2016. The scheme started with 5 farms in 2003 and now there are over 20. However as a result of this success more volunteers are required to monitor the farmland bird populations on the participating estates.



In 2017 the secretary, Paul Blackburn, surveyed Balcarres Estate, West of Elie and greatly enjoyed the experience with good numbers of the target species of Corn Bunting, Skylark and Reed Bunting plus close encounters with other wildlife such as Roe Deer and Brown Hare.

If anyone needs more information he is happy to discuss the surveys or, if you'd like to volunteer for next year's survey, contact Yvonne Stephan direct at the RSPB .

Yvonne Stephan : Yvonne.stephan@rspb.org.uk

(All photos © rspb-images.com)

Events Updates and Latest News

Be sure to regularly check our web site:

(<http://www.swt-fife.org.uk/>)

and Facebook pages

(<https://www.facebook.com/swtfifeandkinrossmc>)

for news and important changes and updates to the programme plus FAWN in colour!



Do we have your email address?

If you would like to be kept informed about all of our events by *email then let* Paul Blackburn know your address so that he can add you to our circulation list.

Reserves Gallery

In the absence of other material for this issue I have taken the liberty of including a few random images of our reserves from my photo archive. I'm hoping this could become a regular feature so please send me lots of your favourite photos! (Ed.)



Carlingnose entrance



Classic view from Carlingnose



Flying flock at Kilminning



Eastern end of Kilminning



Flooding at Dumbarnie



Thrush activity at Dumbarnie



Bankhead Moss: View from the hide



Bankhead Moss

EVENTS SPRING/SUMMER 2018

**Any suggestions? Able to lead
a walk? Give a talk? Get in
touch with Paul Blackburn on
01382 542826**



All welcome. We advise sturdy footwear and suitable clothing for outdoor events.

Sat 3 March 2 pm Outing: Parkland & specimen trees

Meet at car park at bottom of hotel and golf course access
road: NT 27 94.

Thu 29 March 7.30 pm Talk: Mark Caunt - Wildlife Photographer

This is a joint talk with Kinross Camera Club

Probable venue: Thistle Hotel, Milnathort. Check Facebook/
Website or phone for confirmation.

Sat 14 April 2 pm Outing: Kilminning Coast Reserve

Explore our reserve at Kilminning with a focus on spring flowers
and coastal birds.

Meet at Kilminning car park: NO 631 087

Thu 26 April 7 pm Outing: Riverside Park Glenrothes

A walk at dusk for spring birdsong and bats.

Meet at Riverside Park Car Park, Glenrothes: NO265 016

Sat 19 May 10 am Outing: Lochore Meadows

A morning visit to Harran Hill Wood, one of Fife's finest bluebell
woods. Optional afternoon exploration of the Clune for late
spring flowers. Bring packed lunch if staying for the after-
noon.

Meet at main Lochore Meadows Car Park NT 172 962

Sat 2 June 10 am Outing: Cullaloe Reserve

Explore our reserve at Cullaloe.

Meet at reserve car park NT 183 872

Wed 27 June 7 pm Outing: Holl Reservoir

An evening walk to look at plants and birds of the Lomonds

Meet Holl Reservoir Car Park NO 225 034

Sun 22 July 10 am Outing: Tayport to Tentsmuir Point

A leisurely walk looking at plants, butterflies and birds with the
chance of spotting dolphin and osprey. Bring packed lunch if
you want the full outing or just come along for the morning if
you prefer.

Meet at links road car park, Tayport NO 463 282

MOTHING DATES FOR 2018

DATES	RESERVE	START TIME	MEETING PLACE
Sat. 21 st April	Cullaloe	20.15 hrs.	Car Park
Fri. 25 th May	Fleecefaulds	21.00 hrs.	Car Park
Fri. 15 th June	Cullaloe	21.30 hrs.	Car Park This is National Moth Night.
Fri. 13 th July	Bankhead Moss	21.30 hrs.	Car Park
Fri. 3 rd August	Dunbarnie Links	21.00 hrs.	Car Park at Shore

Please telephone Tim Brain on 01577 840317 to confirm event as they are very weather related.

Please bring a torch and wear suitable warm clothing and footwear.

CONTACTS

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Members Centre Website: www.swt-fife.org.uk
SWT Headquarters (Leith): 0131 312 7765 Website:
www.swt.org.uk

